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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P3980PWO-R/Bi	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/007436	International filing date (day/month/year) 09 July 2003 (09.07.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 September 2002 (20.09.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H01R 4/30		
Applicant PROFIL VERBINDUNGSTECHNIK GMBH & CO. KG		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 04 December 2003 (04.12.2003)	Date of completion of this report 26 January 2005 (26.01.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

 the international application as originally filed. the description, pages 1-29, as originally filed,

pages _____, filed with the demand,

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims, Nos. _____, as originally filed,

Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,

Nos. _____, filed with the demand,

Nos. 1-17, filed with the letter of 10 January 2005 (10.01.2005),

Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings, sheets/fig 1/10-10/10, as originally filed,

sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,

sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____

sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____

The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

 the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: DE-A-101 14 200 (PROFIL VERBINDUNGSTECHNIK GMBH)
26 September 2002 (2002-09-26).

2. Document D1 is considered to be the closest prior art for the subject matter of claims 1 and 13. D1 discloses a hollow fastening element for the electrically conductive mounting of an electrical connection device and an assembled component consisting of a sheet metal part and a fastening element of this kind mounted thereon by means of a rivet connection.

2.1 The subject matter of claims 1 and 13 differs therefore from the known fastening element and assembled component in that the annular support surface is conical and anti-torsion features are formed on the conical support surface.

2.2 The subject matter of claims 1 and 13 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

2.3 The problem addressed by the present invention can therefore be considered that of improving the electrically conductive mounting of an electrical connection device by means of a fastening element.

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2.4 The solution to this problem as proposed in claims 1 and 13 of the present application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)), because no other document discloses or mentions that the fastening element is provided with a conical support surface.

3. Claims 2 to 12 and 14 to 17 are dependent on claims 1 and 13, respectively, and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.